

# An Animal Disease Reporting Program for Indiana

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There is a rapid awakening throughout the United States to a need for adequate reporting of communicable diseases in animals, particularly those diseases which may be transmitted to man. Several States now have systems for reporting and are working to improve their systems by solving the problems which they have encountered.

The Indiana program is being developed to improve methods of reporting by the veterinarian, to initiate an organized procedure for handling the data, to provide regular reports to the veterinarian and other interested parties, and finally to render, or assist in rendering, indicated services in communicable disease control based on the information gained from the reporting. The success of such a program depends upon the enthusiastic cooperation of the veterinary profession, the State health department, the State department of agriculture, the chief State livestock sanitary officials, other interested agencies, and the farmer or other owner of animals.

The tentative program was submitted to the Indiana veterinary profession through the medium of local meetings in the nine veterinary districts of the State. Each district voted to participate in and to support such a program. It was presented at joint meetings of county medical societies and veterinarians in conjunction with the development of local rabies control programs. Subsequent to talks on the diagnosis and therapy of rabies in man and animals, the need for more accurate information on rabies in animals, especially clinical cases, was shown. The possible value of similar information for other diseases of animals was discussed. Methods were demonstrated for the preparation of specimens for mailing and their subsequent laboratory confirmation for rabies.

A Veterinary Disease Report Form has been designed for use by Indiana veterinarians in such reporting. The top half of the obverse side and the bottom half of the reverse side of this form are

shown in figure 1. Addresses of veterinarians are printed by addressograph plate on the reverse side of both the top half and the bottom half. Code numbers for machine tabulation have been incorporated in the plate to denote the reporting veterinarian, the city or county, and the State. The date denoting the end of the reporting period will also be stamped on the card before it is sent to the veterinarian.

This card will be mailed to the veterinarian near the end of each reporting period. It will appear on his desk as current business mail at the appropriate time. Very few minutes will be required to fill in the desired information, sign the card, and drop the bottom half in the outgoing mail. This form does not provide information concerning the identification of the animal or its owner, but where diseases are not present in epizootic proportions, this information would be of questionable value. When diseases do occur in significant numbers and control measures or investigations are to be instigated, the veterinarian will be contacted to confirm the number of cases and establish their precise location, their ownership, and related information.

This method for the collection of data provides a measure of the completeness of reporting and should lead to the compilation of data which will be comparable between areas and time intervals. Perfection cannot be expected overnight. Useful information concerning the relative incidence and prevalence of the most common diseases may be anticipated at an early stage. This is a voluntary program. The results, through the medium of reports to the veterinarians and the provision of aid in epizootic control, must justify the program to all concerned.

Some additional States are interested in developing programs for the reporting of animal diseases, especially those diseases which may be transmitted to man. The defense implications of such a program provide additional incentive for its establishment in key States throughout the United States. The

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unified cooperation of professional, State, and federal organizations will be prerequisite to the establishment of such programs, and their success will be measured by the services rendered.

Figure 1  
PORTIONS OF THE NEWLY DESIGNED VETERINARY DISEASE REPORT FORM  
(top half, obverse side)

VETERINARY MORBIDITY REPORT	
<p>All diseases of animals which can be transmitted to man may become of epidemic or epizootic importance under the right circumstances. Those diseases considered most likely to occur have been listed. You may have occasion to report others such as:</p>	
ringworm	psittacosis
trichinosis	glanders
infectious mastitis	tularemia
swine influenza	
brucellosis and tuberculosis in animals other than cattle	
Extra space has been provided for this purpose.	
<p>Your voluntary cooperation is needed. This form has been designed to conserve your time and effort. Its completion and prompt return will be greatly appreciated.</p>	

(bottom half, reverse side)

ANIMAL DISEASE REPORT									
<p>Entered in the appropriate squares are the numbers of cases of animal diseases transmissible to man personally observed by me during the reporting period ending _____</p>							<p>John R. Doe, D. V. M. 12 High Street Brownsville, Indiana  124-002-13</p>		
<p>_____ D.V.M. (signature)</p>									
Diseases	Swine	Cattle	Sheep	Horses	Dogs	Poultry			
Rabies, clinical									
Erysipelas									
Leptospirosis									
Encephalomyelitis									
Anthrax									
Others									
Others									
PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS CARD PROMPTLY EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NO DISEASES TO REPORT.									